

Report from WFC Men in Czech Republic 2008 in Prague & Ostrava

1. General information

The championship was played in Prague & Ostrava 2008-12-06 to 2008-12-14. Twenty teams were participating in the tournament (A- and B-division) and the following teams won the tournament:

A-division – Finland

B-division – Germany

2. Organiser and arenas

Organiser

The tournament was held without major problems regarding organiser and their work in the arenas.

Tournament management, hall management and their crew responded fast of any of jury wishes and all other wishes and tried to do the tournament as good as you can expect.

I had also a lot of contact with the teams and they were all very satisfied with the hospitality from the organiser and the help they got in different matters and that I should give their regards to the organiser for their good work.

I think the organiser succeeded to make the tournament really good and it was easy to work with people who see solutions and not problems.

Things that could have worked better

There were no referee flags during the first day

Some matches started late and some problems with the time keeping occurred.

The wrong national anthem was played for Germany before the B-final (Norway's instead)

Arenas

The matches were played in four arenas O2 arena & Sparta Arena in Prague and CEZ Arena A & B in Ostrava.

O2 Arena in Prague

The arena could take ~ 18 000 spectators and is a perfect arena for the play offs for WFC men. It was also the base for the tournament office for the play-offs. All different sections and needs was arranged in the arena (TV-stands, VIP sections, meeting rooms, press room, restaurant, first aid, tournament office, internet connection, press stand, dressing rooms for all teams etc, etc). The security was extremely good and there were security checks at all necessary spots (no one could come in to the arena without having 'airport check'). Everything that's expected from a big arena was fulfilled.

Sparta Arena in Prague.

Is a smaller arena with spectator capacity of ~ 1 000 spectators. The organiser had made the best of the possibilities that the arena had and it had the things that you need (VIP sections, meeting rooms, press room, restaurant, first aid, internet connection etc. etc).

The arena was good for the matches and was also close to O2 Arena

CEZ Arena A & B in Ostrava

The A-arena could take ~ 9 000 spectators and the B-Arena ~ 1 000 spectators. It was also the base for the tournament office for the week matches. All different sections and needs was arranged in the arena (TV-stands, VIP sections in both arenas, meeting rooms, press room, restaurant in both arenas, first aid in both arenas, tournament office, internet connection, press stand in both arenas, dressing rooms for all teams etc, etc). The security was good and there were security checks at all necessary spots.

3. Teams

In general the teams were easy to work with even though some mistakes were made.

Numbers on the front of the team outfit

Several teams had one or both outfits without numbers on the front side of the jersey. In all cases the teams printed the numbers on their jerseys during the week. The jury decided that the teams shouldn't be punished during the games.

Start of the match/Intermission time

There were some problems with teams not being ready before the match or coming out on time after intermissions. The teams were warned of continuing with this and after that the teams followed the rules.

Changing numbers compared to the team list

Russia changed almost every number from the team list and problems for Eurosport occurred (not easy to get the players right for the commentators).

Team captain - referee

Referee management decided that discussions during intermissions between team captains and referees shouldn't be allowed which caused a lot of confusions due to the fact that all other tournaments have had the opposite guide lines (avoid discussions on the playing area and only discuss things during the intermissions outside the rink)

ID-card

All players/members of the staff were photographed and had a personal ID during the championship. Control of passport numbers compared to the team list were not made direct during passport control. The players were checked through the computer system instead. The system with taking pictures and having special ID-cards is good, but we need to look into how to handle the team list check in connection to this.

In O2 arena you had to use a special card which was difficult to handle due to administrative issues.

Technical meetings

All teams were invited to both technical meetings and all participated both times.

Travel between Ostrava & Prague

Almost all teams and IFF officials travelled by plane to Ostrava. Problems occurred when the teams couldn't bring their luggage due to the fact that only smaller planes was used.

All teams and IFF officials were transported with train from Ostrava to Prague. The transport went smoothly but the space for luggage was not enough for this amount of baggage.

4. Referee management

The Jury would like to thank RC management, Klaus Koskela, and his crew. Teamwork between Jury and RC has developed very positively during the past years and worked very well during the tournament, especially seeing the good balance during the various meetings and that we work as a team without interfering with each other's job.

5. Marketing

Due to communication problems the advertisements from Precision was missing in the WFC programme and agreement was made with the sponsor to use the jumbo screen to show commercial for the company. Otherwise everything worked well.

6. Other

Some short information regarding different things:

- **The total spectator figure was fantastic 104 018 during the week**
- **TV broadcasted from 17 matches during the tournament.**
- The IFF hotels was really good and had all necessary equipment
- The final matches had over 10 000 spectators
- All teams had doping control